

Frequently asked questions about the Early Years Funding Entitlement (EYFE/EYEE)

1. How many hours is my child entitled to?

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a total of 570 hours per year through the Local Education Authority (LEA), Honeycroft spreads these funded hours across the weeks we are open.

From September 2017 the government is looking to increase the free childcare offer up to an additional 570 hours per year. These additional hours are available for families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone-parent family), and each parent earns the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum wage.

Parents must apply for these additional hours and those who are eligible will receive a code which they must share with their setting along with a copy of the child's birth date and parent's national insurance number. Use the childcare calculator here to find out if your family is eligible, www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

2. Is it really 'free' or are there hidden costs?

Honeycroft is closed for 8 bank holidays per year, 3 days between Christmas and New Year and for the last two weeks of August. In total, Honeycroft is closed for 20 days when childcare cannot be provided (not including weekends) and we are open for 49 weeks per year. Therefore, we spread the 570 funded hours to ensure maximum usage resulting in 12 hours per week for 48 weeks which totals 576 hrs per year. This results in a deficit of 6 hours and one week (12hrs) which parents are billed for. To help parents, payments to clear this deficit can be spread across the half term in which it is accrued.

From September 2017, those who will be in receipt of the additional 570 hours will receive up to 24 hrs of funded childcare for 48 weeks (1152 hours in total). This will result in a deficit of 12 hours and one week (24hrs) which parents are billed for. Once again, to help parents, payments to clear this deficit can be spread across the half term in which it is accrued.

Funded hours can be used between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday, as outline below. Any additional hours booked outside of the funded ones are payable at Honeycroft's hourly rate. All children staying on site during lunch time (12pm to 1pm) are charged for a two course homemade meal provided onsite by our Coffee Shop team.

3. Are there any restrictions on when I can use the funded hours?

The weekly EYEE funded hours can be used on any day, depending on availability of sessions, as outlined in the options below. Any hours before 9am are payable at our breakfast club rate and if booked sessions run over our lunch break then a hot lunch is charged.

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EYF 15HRS (up to 570 hrs) Options – 12hrs for 48 weeks, depending on availability

1. Two six hour days (9am to 3pm) – *hot lunch is charged for each day,*
OR
2. Two morning sessions (9am to 12pm) and two afternoon sessions (1pm to 4pm) – *there is no charge for these sessions, however if you would like your child to stay for lunch (12pm to 1pm) then one hour and one hot lunch will be charged for each day as required*

EYF 30HRS (up to 1140 hrs) Option – 24hrs over 48 weeks, depending on availability

1. Four six hour days (9am to 3pm) – *hot lunch charged for each day,*
OR
2. Five afternoon sessions (1 x 1pm to 5pm and 4 x 1pm to 6pm) – *there is no charge for these sessions, however if you would like your child to stay for lunch (12pm to 1pm) then one hour and one hot lunch will be charged for each day as required*

Non Funded hours – sessions paid for by parent / carer

1. A minimum of two 3 hour sessions per week must be booked but there is no maximum or restrictions on morning or afternoon sessions from 8am to 6pm.

4. How do I claim my child's universal free hours?

You will need to complete a Parent Declaration Form which we will provide. It is mandatory that we receive this completed form with a copy of the child's birth certificate when you register with us.

5. How do I claim my additional 15 hrs?

You must register to confirm your eligibility and receive an eligibility code which we must then verify BEFORE the additional hours can be confirmed. This should take place the term before your child turns three or if your circumstances change to make you eligible and your child is already three. Register at Childcare Choice and follow the instructions here: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>. You will need the following information;

- your National Insurance number
- if you're self-employed, your Unique Taxpayer Reference
- the date you started, or are due to start work
- details of any other government support you get

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6. Why do you need a copy of my child's birth certificate?

We need to confirm your child's date of birth falls within the dates of eligibility set by the LEA
We also need to retain a copy for our audit purposes.

7. When is my child entitled to LEA funding?

Your child is normally entitled to the EYFE from the term AFTER their 3rd birthday. For example, if a child becomes 3 years old in February, EYFE starts in the Summer Term, 1 April. If a child's birthday falls on September 1st they will not be eligible until the first of January. Some families are entitled to two-year-old funding; you can complete the information here to see if you are eligible:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/childcare-and-family-support/free-childcare-two-year-olds>

8. If my child attends another setting, can I still use some of the EYFE hours at Honeycroft?

You can use your EYFE hours in a maximum of two settings, Honeycroft being one of them. However, you will need to confirm this on your Parent Declaration Form by telling us the number of hours you wish to claim from Honeycroft and from the other setting. The total hours that you claim across the settings however must not exceed the total allocated amount.

9. What if the EYEE hours are not enough for my needs?

Honeycroft will recover your funded hours directly from the LEA. Any additional hours can be booked and will be billed to your child's Honeycroft account and an invoice given at the start of each month. Any additional one off or short term extra sessions which you require can be billed and paid for at the end of each extra session or added to the following months bill.